

Attorney's Docket No. RA-5425
Request for Continuing Examination

Serial No. 10/028,152
December 28, 2005

In the Claims:

Please amend the claims as follows:

- 1 1. (Currently Amended) A method of operating a ~~Visual Basic~~ drawing program
2 comprising:
3 capturing data from ~~a an EXCEL® spreadsheet program data file, wherein~~
4 ~~said data is organized by lines, and wherein a set of lines contains including all~~
5 ~~information needed for generating one or more signal lines of a timing chart~~
6 ~~producing a single signal line or a header/format line, and wherein there is a~~
7 ~~multiplicity of sets of lines in a said EXCEL® spreadsheet program data file, said~~
8 ~~capturing including, for each set of lines of said data file information unique to a~~
9 ~~particular signal line intended to be displayed, capturing, from said EXCEL®~~
10 ~~spreadsheet program data file by communication of a VISUAL BASIC® procedure~~
11 ~~within said VISUAL BASIC® program with said EXCEL® spreadsheet program, said~~
12 ~~data file information;~~
13 ~~interpreting, by said drawing program, in said VISUAL BASIC® procedure at~~
14 ~~least one command contained within said data, file information from said set of lines~~
15 ~~in accord with a command from within said set of lines;~~
16 ~~preparing said data file information in accord with said command in said~~
17 ~~VISUAL BASIC® procedure to instruct an instance of a VISIO® program each~~
18 ~~said command to be used by said drawing program to draw one of said signal lines a~~
19 ~~signal line or a header/format line in accord with said command from within said set~~
20 ~~of lines;~~
21 ~~operating an instance of a VISIO® program to provide a display file~~
22 ~~containing each said particular signal line and header/format line in accord with said~~
23 ~~captured data interpreted through said command from within said set of lines~~
24 ~~pertaining to each said signal line or header/format line;~~
25 ~~automatically generating, by said drawing program, sending to said instance~~
26 ~~of VISIO® a command and data parameters corresponding with each said set of~~
27 ~~lines together with said command for each said set of lines so that said instance of~~

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28 ~~VISIO® can produce a .vsd file containing sufficient information for VISIO® to print~~
29 ~~or display a said timing chart having each of said one or more signal lines~~ signal line
30 ~~and said header/format line incorporated therein.~~

1 2. (Currently Amended) The method of Claim 1 wherein said ~~sets of lines of said~~
2 data file contains multiple sets of lines of data that are read by said drawing program
3 in a predetermined order from one end of the data file to the opposite end of said
4 data file.

1 3. (Currently Amended) The method of Claim 2 wherein ~~the one end is a top and~~
2 ~~the opposite end is a bottom as said data file may be displayed by using an~~
3 EXCEL® spreadsheet program.

1 4. (Currently Amended) A method of operating a control program ~~for drawing to~~
2 draw a timing chart from a spreadsheet data file accessible through a spreadsheet
3 program ~~employing a drawing program, wherein the spreadsheet program and~~
4 ~~drawing program are each capable of executing apart from one another, the method~~
5 ~~comprising, upon initiation of said control program:~~
6 capturing, by said control program, captures data from said spreadsheet data
7 file, said data including all information needed to generate said timing chart;
8 ~~said control program sends commands based on said captured data to said drawing~~
9 ~~program, wherein said captured data contains commands for each line of a timing~~
10 ~~chart;~~
11 interpreting, by said control program, interprets said commands contained
12 within said captured data for identifying to identify drawing actions to be
13 accomplished by said drawing program and wherein whereby said control program
14 commands controls said drawing program in conformity with said commands to
15 automatically generate one or more signal lines contained within said timing chart.

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1 5. (Currently Amended) The method of Claim 4 further comprising[;] ~~said step of~~
2 capturing data from said spreadsheet data file ~~is executed~~ by requesting each line of
3 data from said spreadsheet data file via said ~~independently operable~~ spreadsheet
4 program which is actively running, and which is capable of being operated with, or
5 without, said drawing program.

1 6. (Currently Amended) The method of Claim 4 ~~further comprising; in said step of~~
2 wherein said control program causes commanding said drawing program in
3 conformity with said commands, said drawing program to produce produces a
4 display of said timing chart that is modified by said commands.

1 7. (Currently Amended) The method of Claim ~~5~~ 4 and further including providing a
2 ~~wherein a user initiates use of said control program and supplies the spreadsheet~~
3 data file name to said control program to enable said control program to access said
4 spreadsheet data via ~~said file name~~ from said ~~independently operable~~ spreadsheet
5 program.

1 8. (Currently Amended) The method of Claim 7 ~~wherein a user prior to initiating~~
2 ~~use of said control program populates~~ 4 further comprising using said spreadsheet
3 program to populate said spreadsheet data file having said spreadsheet data file
4 name with timing chart data, and wherein said spreadsheet program executes
5 independently from said drawing program using said independently operable
6 spreadsheet program, independently from said control program.

1 9. (Currently Amended) The method of Claim 7 8 ~~wherein said step of populating~~
2 of said spreadsheet data file having said spreadsheet data file name is
3 accomplished, at least in part, using a graphic graphical user interface operating on
4 said independently operable spreadsheet program.

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1 10. (Currently Amended) An apparatus for drawing a timing chart based upon data
2 and commands in a spreadsheet data file comprising:
3 a spreadsheet program;
4 a drawing program that is capable of executing independently from said
5 spreadsheet program; and
6 a software program containing a procedure for capturing communicatively
7 coupled to said spreadsheet program and to said drawing program, said software
8 program to use said spreadsheet program to capture data and commands from said
9 spreadsheet data file, using a spreadsheet program to access said spreadsheet data
10 file, said software program including a set of subroutines for interpreting said
11 software program further to interpret said commands and a subroutine for sending to
12 send said interpreted commands and said captured data to a said drawing program
13 together with any associated datums within said data file, whereby said interpreted
14 commands and said captured data provide all information required by said drawing
15 program to generate said timing chart.

1 11. (Currently Amended) ~~An~~ The apparatus as set forth in Claim 10 wherein said
2 software program is written in VISUAL BASIC®.

1 12. (Currently Amended) ~~An~~ The apparatus as set forth in Claim 11 wherein
2 said VISUAL BASIC® software program subroutine for capturing said data and
3 commands from said spreadsheet data file further comprises a routine for requesting
4 a row of data from said independently operable spreadsheet program.

1 13. (Currently Amended) An apparatus as set forth in Claim 12 wherein said
2 routine ~~for requesting a row of data via said independently operable spreadsheet~~
3 ~~program to obtain said row of data from said spreadsheet data file~~ requests a row of
4 data by submitting contains a command that can be submitted to and that is
5 interpretable interpreted by EXCEL® said spreadsheet program.

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1 14. (Currently Amended) ~~An~~ The apparatus as set forth in Claim ~~12~~ 10 wherein
2 said drawing program is subroutine for sending said interpreted commands to a
3 drawing program together with any associated datums within said data contains a
4 command interpretable by VISIO®.

1 15. (Currently Amended) ~~An~~ The apparatus as set forth in Claim 10 wherein said
2 subroutine for sending said interpreted commands are interpretable by said to a
3 drawing program to generate said timing chart together with any associated datums
4 within said data contains a command interpretable by VISIO®.

1 16. (Currently Amended) ~~An~~ The apparatus as set forth in Claim 10 wherein said
2 apparatus comprises electronic signals within a computer memory.

1 17. (Currently Amended) ~~An~~ The apparatus as set forth in Claim 16 wherein said
2 computer memory is a transportable disk.

1 18. (New) The apparatus of Claim 10, wherein said drawing program includes
2 means for utilizing said interpreted commands and said captured data to
3 accomplish at least one of

4 providing a hard copy of said timing chart, and

5 providing a visual display of said timing chart.

1 19. (New) The apparatus of Claim 10 further including means for saving said
2 interpreted commands and said captured data to a plot file that can be used to
3 generate said timing chart.

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- 1 20. (New) The apparatus of Claim 10, and further including:
- 2 means for modifying at least one of said interpreted commands and said
- 3 captured data; and
- 4 means for generating said timing chart from any modified interpreted
- 5 commands and any modified captured data.